

INVENTOR(S): Matus et al.**S/N: 10/707,352****In the Specification****Please replace paragraph [0024] of the specification with the following:**

[0024] Once the trigger switch signal is processed, the power source processing unit causes power to be sent to the torch 16 to initiate a pilot arc. As will be described, the power source 12 transmits power via cable 18 to the torch 16. The HF starting circuit in the torch 16 is configured to supply a high-frequency, high-voltage power to the consumable assembly 19 of the torch 16 independent of a starting configuration of the power source 12. That is, the power source 12 delivers normal operational power to the torch 16 upon initiation and the HF starting circuit of the torch 16 provides the voltage necessary to generate the pilot arc that is required to begin the plasma cutting process. To assist in generating a pilot arc and to enable generation of a plasma for cutting, gas is supplied to the torch 16 from a pressurized gas source 3933.

Please replace paragraph [0028] of the specification with the following:

[0028] The negative and second positive polarity electrical connections 54, 56 are connected to a coupling coil 66, which, in turn, is electrically connected to the consumable assembly 19. Specifically, the negative polarity connection is delivered from the coupling coil 66 to a cutting electrode 42 and the positive polarity connection is delivered from the coupling coil 66 to the tip 44. Connected to the coupling coil 66 is a high voltage transformer 64. The high voltage transformer 64 is controlled by a control line 65. The control line 65 serves to cause the HF starting circuit 62 to initiate. While the control line 65 is shown for exemplary purposes as connected to the power source 12, it is also contemplated that control commands may be generated and communicated within the torch 16. As such, the control line 65 would originate within the torch 16 and terminate at the high voltage transformer 64, thereby remaining within the torch 16 and minimizing the length of the control line 65.

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Please replace paragraph [0029] of the specification with the following:

[0029] When a plasma cutting process is initiated, operational power is delivered from the power source 12 to the HF starting circuit 62. The HF starting circuit 62 steps the voltage up to a high-frequency, high-voltage power and delivers the power to the electrode 42. The high-frequency, high-voltage power causes a spark to fire between the electrode 42 and the tip 44 and ionizes gas within the gap between the electrode 42 and the tip 44. The ionized gas enables current to flow across the air gap between the nozzle 46 and the electrode 42. The result is a pilot arc, which is used to initiate initiating cutting.